

Applic. No. 10/699,180

Amdt. dated December 30, 2004

Reply to Office action of October 6, 2004

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A sheet-processing machine, comprising:

a delivery;

a guide surface for sheets being processed; and

a sheet brake in said delivery, said sheet brake having at least one brake shoe movable over said guide surface parallel to a conveying direction of the sheets.

Claim 2. The machine according to claim 1, wherein said brake shoe is movable transversely to a conveying direction of the sheets.

Claim 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): The machine according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein said at least one brake shoe is movable cyclically in and counter to the sheet conveying direction.

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Claim 5 (previously presented): The machine according to claim 4, wherein said at least one brake shoe is movable in a retarded manner in the sheet conveying direction.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~The machine according to claim 1, wherein~~

A sheet-processing machine, comprising:

a delivery;

a guide surface for sheets being processed; and

a sheet brake in said delivery, said sheet brake having at least one brake shoe movable over said guide surface, said at least one brake shoe has having a height of from less than to only slightly greater than a spaced distance between said guide surface and a respective sheet floatingly guided thereabove.

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~The machine according to claim 1, further comprising~~

A sheet-processing machine, comprising:

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a delivery;

a guide surface for sheets being processed;

a sheet brake in said delivery, said sheet brake having at least one brake shoe movable over said guide surface; and

at least one linear motor for driving said at least one brake shoe.

Claim 8 (original): The machine according to claim 7, wherein said linear motor has a stator part and a rotor part, said stator part being disposed beneath said guide surface, and said rotor part being disposed at a location selected from the group consisting of in and on said at least one brake shoe.

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~The machine according to claim 1, wherein~~

A sheet-processing machine, comprising:

a delivery;

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a said guide surface is formed of non-magnetizable material  
for sheets being processed; and

a sheet brake in said delivery, said sheet brake having at  
least one brake shoe movable over said guide surface.

Claim 10 (original): The machine according to claim 1,  
further comprising air nozzles provided in said guide surface.

Claim 11 (original): The machine according to claim 1,  
wherein said at least one brake shoe is connected to a suction  
air source.

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~The machine according to claim  
1, further comprising~~

A sheet-processing machine, comprising:

a delivery;

a guide surface for sheets being processed;

a sheet brake in said delivery, said sheet brake having at  
least one brake shoe movable over said guide surface; and

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a guide for guiding said at least one brake shoe therein parallel to the sheet conveying direction, said guide having a support engaging in a U-shaped manner around an end of said guide surface.

Claim 13 (original): The machine according to claim 12, wherein said support of said guide is adjustable transversely to said guide direction.

Claim 14 (original): The machine according to claim 12, wherein said guide has a fork-shaped configuration, and said brake shoe around which said guide engages lies laterally on said guide surface.

Claim 15 (original): The machine according to claim 14, wherein said at least one brake shoe lies on said guide surface, and an air-cushion bearing is disposed between said at least one brake shoe and said guide surface.

Claim 16 (original): The machine according to claim 15, further comprising nozzles provided in said guide surface for producing said air cushion.

Claim 17 (original): The machine according to claim 14, wherein said at least one brake shoe lies without contact on

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said guide surface, and a magnetic bearing is disposed between  
said at least one brake shoe and said guide surface.

Claim 18 (original): The machine according to claim 7,  
wherein said at least one linear motor is selected from the  
group consisting of electromagnetic and pneumatic linear  
motors.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A sheet-fed printing press,  
comprising:

a delivery;

a guide surface for sheets being processed in the sheet-fed  
printing press; and

a sheet brake in said delivery, said sheet brake having at  
least one brake shoe movable over said guide surface parallel  
to a conveying direction of the sheets.

Claim 20 (currently amended): In a sheet-processing machine,  
a delivery comprising:

a guide surface for sheets being processed; and

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a sheet brake having at least one brake shoe movable over said  
guide surface parallel to a conveying direction of the sheets.